

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-12 and 21 are pending. Claims 1-3 and 9 are allowed. By this Response, claims 5 and 21 are amended and claims 6, 8, 13-20 and 22 cancelled. Allowance of the application based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 9 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Malmquist (US 4,803,306). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Advisory Action dated April 29, 2005, the Examiner has allowed claims 1-3 and 9 and objected to claims 6 and 21. During a subsequent discussion with the Examiner via telephone on May 11, 2005, the Examiner stated that objected claims 6 and 21 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if incorporated into the respective independent claims. The Examiner also stated that claims 11 and 12 would be rejoined with the application while maintaining claims 13-20 and 22 are withdrawn from consideration. In light of the Advisory Action and subsequent conversation with the Examiner, applicants have amended independent claim 5 to include the features of dependent claim 6, which the Examiner deemed contained allowable subject matter. Also, applicants have incorporated the features of claim 5 into claim 21, which the Examiner stated contained allowable subject matter, creating new independent claim 21.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments have been made to include the allowable subject matter into independent claims 5 and new independent claim 21. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the rejection to the claims is now moot. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Conclusion


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/915,503

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)